CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic commerce method comprising the steps of:

determining at least one e-commerce partner;

presenting a partner identifier within a commerce graphical user interface for said e-commerce partner, wherein within said commerce graphical user interface the partner identifier is an expandable node;

presenting an expansion of at least one of said nodes within said commerce graphical user interface; and

for each expansion, presenting at least one transaction identifier as a child node of said expanded node, wherein each transaction identifier represents an electronic commerce transaction between a user of the commerce graphical user interface and said e-commerce partner.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-business transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one trading partner.

3. The method of claim 2, said method further comprising the step of:

providing a business partner gateway, wherein said commerce graphical user interface is an interface for interacting with said business partner gateway.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-consumer transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one consumer.

5. The method of claim 1, said determining step comprising the step of:

determining whether each e-commerce partner is an active partner such that only active partners are displayed in said presenting step.

6. The method of claim 5, said determining step further comprising the step of determining whether one of said e-commerce partners is an active partner by at least one of the following steps:

detecting whether a transaction has occurred with said e-commerce partner within a designated time period;

determining whether transactions involving said e-commerce partner exceed a designated valuation threshold;

determining whether a transaction involving said e-commerce partner exceeds a designated data size; and

determining whether said e-commerce partner has a preference level above a designated preference level.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

providing an administrative graphical user interface configured to adjust at least one parameter used to define whether an e-commerce partner is an active partner.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

detecting a transmission error; and

indicating within said graphical user interface that an error occurred during an associated transmission.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving a selection specifying a node of said graphical user interface;

responsively establishing a communication session between a user of said commerce graphical user interface and the e-commerce partner associated with said node.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said communication session is an instant messaging session.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said establishing step further comprises the steps of:

selecting a communication channel; and

establishing said communication session through said communication channel.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

categorizing a node associated with at least one of a transmission and an e-commerce partner; and

visually differentiating said node from other nodes based upon a category of said node.

13. A system for conducting electronic commerce transactions comprising:

an electronic commerce application configured to conduct electronic commerce transactions between an e-commerce entity and at least one e-commerce partner;

a commerce graphical user interface configured to display electronic commerce transactions in near real time, wherein said displayed electronic commerce transactions are grouped by e-commerce partner.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said electronic commerce application further comprises:

a communication engine configured to establish a communication session between said e-commerce entity and a selected e-commerce partner displayed within said commerce graphical user interface, wherein said commerce graphical user interface initiates said communication session.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein said electronic commerce application further comprises:

an active engine configured to categorize e-commerce partners as active partners, wherein said commerce graphical user interface is further configured to limit displayed e-commerce partners to active partners.

16. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

determining at least one e-commerce partner;

presenting a partner identifier within a commerce graphical user interface for said e-commerce partner, wherein within said commerce graphical user interface the partner identifier is an expandable node;

presenting an expansion of at least one of said nodes within said commerce graphical user interface; and

for each expansion, presenting at least one transaction identifier as a child node of said expanded node, wherein each transaction identifier represents an electronic commerce transaction between a user of the commerce graphical user interface and the associated e-commerce partner.

17. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-business transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one trading partner.

18. The machine-readable storage of claim 17, said method further comprising the step of:

providing a business partner gateway, wherein said commerce graphical user interface is an interface for interacting with said business partner gateway.

19. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-consumer transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one consumer.

20. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, said determining step comprising the step of:

determining whether each e-commerce partner is an active partner such that only active partners are displayed in said presenting step.

21. The machine-readable storage of claim 20, said determining step further comprising the step of determining whether one of said e-commerce partners is an active partner by at least one of the following steps:

detecting whether a transaction has occurred with said e-commerce partner within a designated time period;

determining whether transactions involving said e-commerce partner exceed a designated valuation threshold;

determining whether a transaction involving said e-commerce partner exceeds a designated data size; and

determining whether said e-commerce partner has a preference level above a designated preference level.

22. The machine-readable storage of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

providing an administrative graphical user interface configured to adjust at least one parameter used to define whether an e-commerce partner is an active partner.

23. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

detecting a transmission error; and

indicating within said graphical user interface that an error occurred during an associated transmission.

24. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

receiving a selection specifying a node of said graphical user interface;

responsively establishing a communication session between a user of said commerce graphical user interface and the e-commerce partner associated with said node.

25. The machine-readable storage of claim 24, wherein said communication session is an instant messaging session.

26. The machine-readable storage of claim 24, wherein said establishing step further comprises the steps of:

selecting a communication channel; and

establishing said communication session through said communication channel.

27. The machine-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

categorizing a node associated with at least one of a transmission and an e-commerce partner; and

visually differentiating said node from other nodes based upon a category of said node.

28. An electronic commerce system comprising:

means for determining a plurality of e-commerce partners; and

a commerce graphical user interface configured to present a partner identifier as an expandable node, and wherein said commerce graphical user interface is configured to present at least one transaction identifier as a child node of said expanded node, wherein each transaction identifier represents an electronic commerce transaction between a user of the commerce graphical user interface and the associated e-commerce partner;

means for selecting a displayed e-commerce partner; and

means for establishing a communication session between a user of said commerce graphical user interface and a selected e-commerce partner.